

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 1, 2 and 4-12 to read as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A liquid ejection head comprising:

a liquid flow path;

an ejection ~~outlet forming member~~ outlet-forming member, which ~~constitutes~~ comprises a part of a wall of ~~the~~ said liquid flow path and which forms an ejection outlet for ejecting a droplet of liquid, the ejection outlet having a recessed portion recessed from a plane in which the ejection outlet is formed;

a heat generating element, provided at a position ~~opposing~~ opposed to ~~said the~~ said ejection outlet of the wall of said liquid flow path, ~~outlet~~, for generating a bubble in the liquid by application of heat to the liquid;

a restrictor ~~portion~~, portion having an opening and provided at ~~[[a]]~~ the recessed portion of ~~said the~~ said ejection outlet, ~~wherein said recessed portion is recessed from a plane in which said ejection outlet is formed;~~ wherein the liquid forms a meniscus and is retained in ~~said the~~ said ejection outlet such that said restrictor portion is within the liquid,

wherein an area S_o of ~~an~~ the opening of said restrictor portion and a surface area S_h of said heat generating element satisfy the following inequality:

$$S_o \leq S_h.$$

2. (Currently Amended) A liquid ejection head comprising:

a liquid flow path;

an ejection ~~outlet forming member~~ outlet-forming member, which ~~constitutes~~ comprises a part of a wall of ~~the~~ said liquid flow path and which forms an ejection outlet for ejecting a droplet of liquid, the ejection outlet having a recessed portion recessed from a plane in which the ejection outlet is formed;

an energy generating element, provided at a position ~~opposing~~ opposed to ~~said~~ the ejection ~~outlet of the wall of said liquid flow path;~~ outlet, for generating ejection energy to be applied to the liquid;

a restrictor ~~portion;~~ portion having an opening and provided at ~~[[a]]~~ the recessed portion of ~~said~~ the ejection outlet, ~~wherein said recessed portion is recessed from a plane in which said ejection outlet is formed;~~ wherein the liquid forms a meniscus and is retained in ~~said~~ the ejection outlet such that said restrictor portion is within the liquid,

wherein a thickness c of said restrictor portion and a height e of said liquid flow path measured in a direction in which ~~said~~ the ejection outlet and said energy generating element ~~are faced to~~ face each other, satisfy the following inequality:

$$c \leq e.$$

3. (Original) A liquid ejection head according to Claim 2, wherein said energy generating element is a heat generating element.

4. (Currently Amended) A liquid ejection head according to Claim 2, wherein an area S_o of ~~an~~ the opening of said restrictor portion and a surface area S_h of said heat generating element satisfy the following inequality:

$$S_o \leq S_h.$$

5. (Currently Amended) A liquid ejection head comprising:
a liquid flow path;
an ejection ~~outlet forming member~~ outlet-forming member, which ~~constitutes~~ comprises a part of a wall of ~~the~~ said liquid flow path and which forms an ejection outlet for ejecting a droplet of liquid, the ejection outlet having a recessed portion recessed from a plane in which the ejection outlet is formed;

an energy generating element, provided at a position ~~opposing~~ opposed to ~~said~~ the ejection ~~outlet of the wall of said liquid flow path~~, outlet, for generating ejection energy to be applied to the liquid;

a restrictor ~~portion~~, portion having an opening and provided at ~~[[a]]~~ the recessed portion of ~~said~~ the ejection outlet, ~~wherein said recessed portion is recessed from a plane in which said ejection outlet is formed~~, wherein the liquid forms a meniscus and is retained in ~~said~~ the ejection outlet such that said restrictor portion is within the liquid,

wherein a thickness c of said restrictor portion and a thickness d of said ejection ~~outlet forming member~~ outlet-forming member, measured between a plane in which ~~said~~ the ejection outlet is formed and a plane of said restrictor portion, satisfy the

following inequality:

$$c \leq d.$$

6. (Currently Amended) A liquid ejection head according to Claim 1, 2 or 5, wherein said restrictor portion is disposed in a middle in a direction of a thickness of said ejection ~~outlet-forming~~ outlet-forming member.

7. (Currently Amended) A liquid ejection head according to Claim 1, 2 or 5 wherein a diameter of the opening of said restrictor portion changes along a direction of ejection of the liquid through ~~said~~ the ejection outlet.

8. (Currently Amended) A liquid ejection head according to Claim 1, 2 or 5, wherein ~~said restrictor portion has~~ the opening including of said restrictor portion includes a plurality of fine bores.

9. (Currently Amended) A liquid ejection head according to Claim 1, 2 or 5, wherein the liquid is a recording liquid usable ~~with~~ for ink jet recording.

10. (Currently Amended) A liquid ejection head according to Claim 1, 2 or 5, wherein the liquid is a medicine to be inhaled into a lung.

11. (Currently Amended) A liquid ejection head according to Claim 5, wherein an area S_o of ~~an~~ the opening of said restrictor portion and a surface area S_h of said heat generating element satisfy the following inequality:

$$S_o \leq S_h.$$

12. (Currently Amended) A liquid ejection head according to Claim 5 or 11, wherein a height e of said liquid flow path measured in a direction in which ~~said the~~ ejection outlet and said energy generating element ~~are faced to~~ face each other, ~~satisfy~~ satisfies the following inequality:

$$c \leq e.$$